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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

DEVON BELL
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Thursday, March 6, 2008 3 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence: Wednesday, March 5, 2008
Nature of Event: Snowboarders Rescued
Location of Call: Sugar Bowl Ski Area
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Early this morning, two young women were rescued from an icy cliff by the Placer County Sheriff's Tahoe Nordic Team and other emergency responders after the girls snowboarded out of bounds from the Sugar Bowl Ski Area Wednesday afternoon.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center received a cellular call from the two teens at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, stating they were lost on a mountainside near Mt. Judah, just off the backside of the Sugar Bowl Ski Area. Megan Gallagher, 18, of Roseville and 19-year-old Samantha Lumley of Soda Springs said they snowboarded out of bounds earlier in the day with the prospect of reaching Donner Lake.

They took a wrong turn and ended up on the north face of Donner Peak and were unable to move due to extreme cliffs and icy conditions, according to Sheriff's Deputy Dave Hunt. One of the women had fallen about 100 feet, but she was not injured. Lumley reported she could see Donner Lake and Old Highway 40 from her location, which provided the Sheriff's Office with the girls' general location.

Assisting the Sheriff's Tahoe Nordic Team was Placer County Fire, Truckee Police, and Sugar Bowl Ski Patrol.

Around 2:30 this morning, rescuers were lowered approximately 400 feet to the women's location. They were cold but in good condition and denied any medical treatment.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office is reminding snow sport enthusiasts that it is a crime to knowingly ski in an area or on a trail that is posted closed to the public and to always be prepared for unexpected conditions, keep a cell phone with you if possible, and to let others know where you going and when you plan to return.